



WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

SPECIAL EMPHASIS FUNDING – FY 2010

White-nose Syndrome (WNS) is a wildlife crisis of unprecedented proportions that has killed over 1,000,000 bats in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeastern states and continues to spread unchecked. The disease has affected six bat species, including the Federally endangered Indiana bat and Regional Forester Sensitive eastern small-footed bat.

The Eastern Region of the Forest Service is an active participant in the collaborative WNS Investigation, and is supporting the national effort to slow-the-spread of WNS.

WNS Special Emphasis Funding: The Eastern Region received \$150,000, specifically for projects related to WNS, in its 2010 allocation. These funds have been distributed to Eastern Region units for the following:

- **Maternity Season Acoustic Surveys on 14 Eastern Region National Forests and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.** Continues the collection and analysis of baseline summer population data for forest bat species across a broad geographic area, in partnership with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center. A minimum of 56 transects are scheduled to be surveyed three times during summer 2010. (\$93,000; principal contact, Becky Ewing – 414.297.3612)
- **New England Data Resurvey, Green Mountain (VT) and White Mountain (NH) National Forests.** Forty sites previously surveyed during 1995 and 2007 will be resurveyed using stationary acoustic recording devices to determine changes in bat populations on the local level and to add to the datasets for changes in bat populations in the Northeast. (\$14,000; principal contact, Rob Hoelscher – 802.747.6740)
- **Distribution of WNS on the Finger Lakes National Forest (NY) and WNS Outreach.** Acoustic surveys (mobile and stationary) and mist netting will be conducted to compare pre- and post-WNS bat activity on the Finger Lakes National Forest, an area noted to have high *Myotis* use during 2009 NYDEC surveys. Swab samples of fur/skin will be collected on all captured bats to determine the percentage of bats with WNS and to assess the distribution of *Geomyces destructans* on the national forest*. A 3-D interactive display that showcases bat ecology will also be developed and shared with other agencies for enhanced outreach efforts. (\$14,000; principal contact, Debbie Smith – 607.546.4470 x321) *Swab samples will be funded with Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds
- **Resurvey Northern Long-eared Bat Roosts, White Mountain National Forest (NH).** Northern long-eared bat roosts (including maternity roosts) at 20 sites on the White Mountain National Forest will be relocated 15 years post-initial survey; the project will provide information to the USFWS for the NLEB listing petition and will document characteristics and longevity of these roost trees, as well as changes in bat use. (\$7,000; principal contact, Leighlan Prout – 603.536.6223)
- **Protection of Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Bat Winter Roosting Sites from Unauthorized Public Access on the Shawnee National Forest (IL).** A bat-friendly gate will be constructed across the sole entrance to Dutchman's Cave, located in Johnson County. The public has continued to ignore closure order signs posted at Dutchman's Cave and a gate offers a permanent solution for protecting hibernating bats. Dutchman's Cave offers suitable habitat for the endangered Indiana bat and gray bat, and Regional Forester Sensitive eastern small-footed bat. (\$10,000; principal contact, Rod McClanahan – 618.658.1317)
- **Participation on WNS National Response Plan Writing Team.** The Eastern Region's Endangered Species Program Manager is an active member of the WNS National Response Plan writing team; a portion of the salary and travel needed for this activity is covered. (\$12,000; principal contact, Becky Ewing – 414.297.3612)



For more information, contact:
Becky Ewing, Endangered Species Program
414.297.3612 / rewing@fs.fed.us